ICNP® – tips to use

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Introduction

This document has been prepared to present basic information about the **International Council of Nurses** (ICN) and a universally acknowledged system of nursing practice: the **International Classification for Nursing Practice** (ICNP®) created by ICN members at the turn of centuries. The paper shows objectives common for the nursing organization as well as for the classification itself. Additionally, it focuses on finding correspondence between ICNP® and the HELP project.

1. ICN definition

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) is a federation that unites 130 national nurses associations which makes more than 16 million nurses worldwide. It was founded in 1899 and nowadays is recognized as the world's first and widest reaching international organisation for healthcare professionals.

ICN works on both international and national levels with the aim to ensure good quality of nursing care, work on health policies and the advancement of nursing knowledge. It also aims to demonstrate nursing worldwide as a respected and competent profession.

With passing time ICN established a number of networks and connections to professionals from the field from national, regional and international nursing and non-nursing organisations. The federation cooperates with e.g. the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the World Bank and a range of international non-governmental organisations.

2. ICN – main objectives

- to represent nursing profession throughout the world
- to advocate for nursing professionals
- to advance the nursing profession
- to contribute to services delivery on high level
- to cooperate with interested stakeholders across the profession
- to achieve better health outcomes
- to promote ethical nursing practice
- to contribute to health policy advancements
- to contribute to social, economic and education by designing reliable policies
- to create networks of professional practice that will influence socio-economic welfare
- to make alliance with governmental and non-governmental agencies, foundations, regional groups, national associations, and individuals

3. Three Pillars of ICN

International Council of Nurses focuses its actions in three main areas that are called Three Pillars of ICN:

1. **Professional Nursing Practice** (e.g. eHealth, Ethics and Human Rights, Communicable Diseases, Non-communicable Diseases, Primary Health Care, Immunisation/Vaccines, Mental Health)

2. **Nursing Regulation** (e.g. Education, Counterfeit medicines, Women's and Children's Health)

3. **Socio-economic Welfare for Nurses** (e.g. Occupational health and safety, Human resources planning and policy, Career development, International trade in professional services, Ageing)

4. ICNP ® definition

The **International Classification for Nursing Practice** (ICNP) has been created by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) as an international standard of formal terminology used in nursing practice. The product, with its first edition in 1993, provides a dictionary of terms and expressive relationships that nurses can use to describe and report their practice in a systematic way.

The idea of international classification of nursing practice emerged in 1989 when some nursing professionals decided on the need to classify and group specialist terminology that is used to describe nursing interventions and actions on the basis of nursing interview.

Within the years three categories were introduced:
- nursing phenomena
- nursing interventions
- nursing outcomes

ICNP® is intended for use by and for nurses. It is a rich and comprehensive resource that nurses can use to describe and report in detail the things that they assess and the things that they provide.

ICNP® database is used to support care and effective decision-making, promote high level of nursing education, research and works on health policy.

The first written version of ICNP® appeared in 2005. The main version is created in English; yet there are a few translations to other languages, aimed at the countries where the ICNP® standards have already been introduced (please check at: http://www.icn.ch/what-we-do/icnpr-translations/). ICN emphasizes that good-quality translations are indispensable for successful ICNP® implementation. It is also important to notice that there can be only one national version of ICNP® standards.

5. ICNP ® – vision, goals and benefits

VISION
- to serve as a working tool that improves:
  - global information infrastructure,
  - information channels in healthcare practice,
  - patient care worldwide

GOALS
- to serve as a tool that strengthens nurses' contribution to healthcare
- to promote standardization and harmonization with other used classifications in healthcare (e.g. the **International Classification of Health Interventions** (ICHI))

BENEFITS
- a universally acknowledged system helps to unify description and comparison of nursing practice
- unifies nursing language system for international nursing practice
- it is based on state-of-the-art terminology standards
- unifies nursing practice on local, regional, national and international levels above different languages and cultures
- promotes nursing practice and influences decision-making, education and policy on patient needs, nursing interventions and health outcomes
- helps to generate data across nations that influences international research
- facilitates communication among different healthcare specialties
- encourages self-development and lifelong education from nursing practitioners

6. Requirements to use

ICNP® is owned and copyrighted by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) which is interested in facilitating access to ICNP® and promoting its use.

Different organizations are encouraged to get familiar, promote and incorporate ICNP® into their work routine (clinical practice) or educational activities (developing projects involving ICNP®).

Yet, any use of ICNP®, be it commercial or not, requires an official agreement. ICN is interested in protecting its copyright of ICNP®, so all who are interested in using ICNP® for any purpose (translate, publish, reproduce or distribute) need permission from ICN.

In case of interest in non-commercial use of ICNP® in research or education there is no fee. However, an Agreement for Non-commercial Use of ICNP® is needed.

As well as protection of copyright, ICN is most concerned about facilitating access to ICNP® for use by nurses.

7. ICNP ® – benefits for HELP

- created in English – reliable source of information for us
- translated into several national languages – German, Polish, Spanish needed within our consortium (please, check at: http://www.icn.ch/what-we-do/icnpr-translations/)
- it will help us prepare key words lists with IPA at the beginning of every module
- it will help us prepare short list of expressions at the end of every module
- inspiration to create communicative exercises as ICNP® is based on state-of-the-art terminology standards
- using ICNP terminology in countries where there is no direct translation to national languages requires careful discussion with nursing experts
- it shall be guaranteed that terminology used corresponds to B1/B2 CEFR standards

8. Additional information

Related websites – interesting for some HELP consortium members

There are national websites that deal with ICNP® implementation on national levels. Please, check information provided for CZ, DE and PL partners.

Czech-Republic site:	http://www.icnp.cz/ **- This website was last updated in 2001 and it is an individual effort of the author. What is more, the translation is very poor at times. It has no link to any official nursing associations, neither educational institution or organisation in the Czech Republic.**
German site:	http://www.icnp.info/
Polish site:	http://www.ptp.na1.pl/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=82&Itemid=131&limit=20&limitstart=20
Slovakia:	**There is no special official Slovak website about ICNP. Information and direct link to ICN is on the website of our official nursing association The Slovak Chamber of Nurses and Midwives** www.sksapa.sk.

Application of ICNP ®standards in HELP consortium countries:

Poland   Poland joined ICNP® in Nov 2012; it is lead by **Polish Nurses Association (PTP) (**http://www.ptp.na1.pl/**)**, the system is adapted to hospitals, used in practice

Spain   * ICNP®/ CIPE: **Clasificación Internacional de la Práctica de Enfermería**

   * http://www.acendio.net/spain/spanish.htm is an association that supports ICNP®.

   * General Nursing Council of Spain (CGE) (http://www.consejogeneralenfermeria.org/) coordinates translation of the ICNP® to Spanish.

* They recently completed the publication of the translation of the ICNP® 2013.

* The ICNP® is now published every two years to coincide with Congress / Conference CGE. The ICNP® 2015 will be available world-wide at the conference to be held in Seoul, Korea, on 19-23 June 2015.

Czech Republic

* There is no official Czech translation of ICNP®

* ICNP® is not currently used in Czech nursing practice, or in education. Our colleagues are aware of ICNP®, but the NANDA-Int. is preferred in education and research in the Czech Republic. According to them, there is no nursing faculty that uses ICNP® systematically to teach about the nursing process. Czech nurses do not use ICNP® in practice. There is no official ICNP® translation, the beta-version is an "individual" initiative of dr. Vejvalka. It is sometimes used in research projects (where dr. Vejvalka is involved), but there is no consistent use of it at present, as far as we know in Olomouc.

Slovakia

One of the members of the ICN is the Slovak Chamber of Nurses and Midwives, this information is also on its website www.sksapa.sk.

ICNP® is currently used in Slovakia in education and research like one of the international standards in nursing practice. It is part of the curriculum of nurses. We have no official Slovak translation of ICNP®.

Slovakia participated in the international project ICNP along with other countries. In terms of the current legislation nurses work with method of nursing process in which they use also knowledge of ICNP®.

Lithuania

* There is no official Lithuanian translation of ICNP®.

The staff of the Faculty of Nursing, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, has finished the translation of the beta version of ICNP®

material. The translation has been further discussed with the president of the Organization of Lithuanian Specialists of Nursing. The members of the above organization think that ICNP® could be put into practice in the future.

Germany

* ICN Accredited Research and Development Centre: Deutschsprachige ICNP Nutzergruppe (German-Speaking ICNP User Group)

* http://www.icnp.info/

* The German-speaking ICNP®–User group is composed by Germany, Austria and Switzerland and dealing since 1997 with the development of the professional language in care in general and specifically with the development of the care classification system ICNP as well as of other classification systems in care.

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Ireland ICNP® classification system is not used in Ireland. It is not included in any of Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland reference material. Even though they are familiar with it, they do not use it or insist nurses use it as a reference.

Nurses from within the EU work in accordance with the EU Directive 2005/36/EC.